

There is a carbolized example of this species in the collection; the exact locality where it was obtained is not stated, but it was probably Shoa.

a. ? Shoa, Abyssinia.

167. PSALIDOPROCNE BLANFORDI.

Psalidoprocne blanfordi Weld-Blundell & Lovat, Bull. B. O. C. vol. x. p. xx. (1899).

a. ♂. Bilo, Abyssinia, 11 March, 1899. (No. 400.)
[*Type of the species.*]

This species is most nearly allied to *P. pristopectera* (Rüpp.), but has the whole plumage of the upper parts black, glossed with *dark green*. The underparts are darker than the back, and have less green gloss. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 6 inches, exposed part of culmen 0·2, wing 4·3, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·45.

[This rough-winged Swallow is common from the valleys west of Addis Abbeba to the Blue Nile. It flies close to the bushes, and swerves at lightning speed through the narrow openings of the scrub.—L.]

[To be continued.]

X.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. LXV. & LXVI.

No. LXV. (October 31st, 1899).

THE sixty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 18th of October, 1899. *Chairman*: P. CROWLEY. Thirty Members and one guest were present.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition a pair of *Eclactus westermanni* Bp., and made the following remarks:—

“Dr. A. B. Meyer and Dr. Bowdler Sharpe have both expressed their opinion that *E. westermanni* is an aberration of *E. riedeli* Meyer, produced by being kept in captivity;

and consequently this idea has been generally adopted as a fact, in spite of the contrary opinion held by Count Salvadori in the 'Catalogue of Birds.'

"A few weeks ago a consignment of ten *Eclectus westermanni* arrived in London alive, of which six were males and four females, the latter sex being previously unknown. The discovery of the female disposes at once of the fiction that this excellent species could be an aberration of *E. riedeli*, for it has a blue collar and therefore belongs to the *E. roratus* section.

"The male differs from all the other species in being entirely green on the breast, while the others (including *E. riedeli*) have a large patch of red on the sides of breast. (Specimens of *E. roratus*, *E. pectoralis*, *E. cardinalis*, and *E. cornelia* were exhibited.)

"The female of *E. westermanni* is similar to the female of *E. pectoralis*, but differs in having a blue collar and dull purple lower breast, while *E. pectoralis* has both collar and breast of the same bright blue colour. The under tail-coverts are also of a much darker and duller red. The ring of blue round the eyes of *E. pectoralis* is also absent in *E. westermanni*. Both sexes are likewise much smaller than *E. pectoralis*."

Of the ten specimens mentioned above, Mr. Rothschild had three males and one female alive. The other six had died, and a stuffed male and female were exhibited. Mr. Rothschild hoped to secure one more female, which had been mounted, but the remaining two males and one female had been destroyed.

The habitat of the species was still unknown.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD also exhibited specimens of all the species of *Pitta* belonging to the red-bellied section "g" of that genus in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' excepting *P. ceruleitorques*, which he did not possess. He observed:—

"Of all these forms, *Pitta rubrinucha* by its red nape, *P. kochi* by its large size, and *P. dohertyi* by its broad black

pectoral collar and black ring round the neck, are the most distinct.

“The best known and the most widely distributed is probably *P. mackloti*, which inhabits nearly the whole of New Guinea, Waigiu, Salwatti, Mysol, and—according to Salvadori, Selater, and others—also the Aru Islands, Cape York, New Britain, and the Key Islands. From the last locality Count Salvadori had no adult specimens when he wrote his great work; but I have now a fine series, and find that the species is not *P. mackloti*, but as different as many of the other forms of this group. In ΠΙΤΤΑ ΚΥΕΠΠΙ—as I propose to name the form inhabiting the Key Islands and Koer—the blue of the chest extends over the sides of the chest and breast (where there is a green patch in *P. mackloti*) and is continued in a narrow blue ring round the upper back. The feathers on the sides of the chest appear to be somewhat more elongated than in *P. mackloti*. Adult birds have some blue on the crown—a character which is rather rare in *P. mackloti*.

“*Pitta finschi*, described by Ramsay from the Astrolabe Range, is the *Pitta* of the D’Entrecasteaux Islands; and Elliot is quite wrong in placing *P. finschi* as a synonym of *P. cyanonota* from Ternate. The latter has the head reddish brown and the throat pale brown, while *P. finschi* is rightly described by Ramsay as having the head dark reddish chocolate-brown and the throat black, and the measurements are much larger. The locality ‘Astrolabe Range’ is probably wrong.

“*P. loriae*, Salvad., is another form which has hitherto been very little known. It differs from *P. mackloti* in its uniform dark-brown head, nape, and hind-neck. It occurs near Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea, where it seems to replace the common *P. mackloti*. The green-backed females of his *P. finschi* mentioned by Ramsay, and considered by Finsch to belong to *P. mackloti*, were most likely specimens of *P. loriae*.

“*Pitta novæ-hiberniæ* from New Hanover and New Ireland has been wrongly confused with *P. mackloti*.

"*P. palliceps* is certainly very closely allied to *P. celebensis*, and the distinctness of *P. propinqua* from *P. erythrogastra* is very doubtful."

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also sent for exhibition a specimen of an Oyster-catcher, which he proposed to call:—

"HEMATOPUS REISCHEKI, sp. n.

"♂ *ad.* Differs from *H. longirostris* Vieill. and *H. finschi* Martens, at first sight, in having the lower back and rump black and not white, and the upper tail-coverts being mixed black and white, not white. The bill is much longer than in a series of twenty-three specimens of *H. longirostris* in the Tring Museum, and appears stouter than in New Zealand specimens.

"Culmen 102 mm., wing 270, tarsus 60.

"*H. longirostris*, ♂ *ad.* Culmen 75–85 mm., wing 245–255, tarsus 55.

"The type was shot in June 1885 at Kaiparu, New Zealand, by A. Reischek.

"*H. finschi* of Martens (Orn. Monatsb. 1897, p. 190) appears from the description to agree with two birds collected by Baron von Hügel at Freshwater Creek, Canterbury, New Zealand, and another from Kaipoi, Canterbury. These birds, however, vary among themselves in the amount of white on the quills, which is the distinction given by Herr Martens; and this variation in the amount of white leads me to consider that his *H. finschi* and the three birds from Baron von Hügel are only aberrations of *H. longirostris*."

Mr. ERNST HARTERT recorded the occurrence of a specimen of *Grallina picata* on the little island of Koer in the Key group.

Mr. HARTERT also exhibited the types of three new birds collected near Gambaga, Gold Coast Colony, which he named and characterized as follows:—

COSSYPHA GIFFARDI, sp. n.

Similar to *C. albicapilla* from Senegambia, but differing in

having much narrower white tips to the feathers of the crown and occiput, so that these parts do not appear white, but black with white crescentic bars. Wings and tail longer than in *C. albicapilla*. Wing 135-137 mm., tail 145-148. Sexes alike. This form is probably a representative of *C. albicapilla*.

HELIOCORYS MODESTA GIFFARDI, sp. n.

Closely allied to *H. modesta*, of which it is evidently only a sub-species, but differs in being altogether paler and more sandy in coloration; the breast is less heavily spotted with black, the underside paler, the wing 2 or 3 mm. shorter.

BESSONORNIS (? *COSSYPHA*) *GAMBAGE*, sp. n.

Very similar to *Bessonornis modesta*, Shelley, from Nyasaland, but differing in its rusty rufous flanks and under tail-coverts. The lateral rectrices have not a complete bar across the tips, but only an elongate blackish mark on the outer webs and a small blackish spot on the inner web of the outermost rectrix. The wing-quills and larger wing-coverts have pale rusty-brown edges, and the upper surface is paler. Wing and tail 3 or 4 mm. shorter.

Mr. C. B. HORSBRUGH exhibited a series of photographs of nests and eggs taken on the Smölen Islands and in the Sundal Valley in Northern Norway. An interesting series of the nests of *Fringilla montifringilla* and *F. caelebs* from the latter locality was also shown.

Mr. SCHERREN exhibited photographs of a young Cuckoo taken at two separate stages of its work of ejecting a young Titlark from a nest. Though the fact of such ejection has been well established, the photographs were of considerable interest as supplying incontrovertible evidence on the subject. The nest was found and watched by Mr. John Craig, a Scottish amateur naturalist, and the photographs were kindly sent by Mr. Peat Millar, of Beith, N.B., for exhibition.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE read a letter from Dr. J. von Madarász and exhibited a specimen of the Pale Swift, *Apus*

murinus (Brehm), shot near Fiume. The specimen was decidedly small, as were all those procured by Dr. von Madarász, but Dr. Sharpe stated that similar small individuals were to be noted from Spain and within other portions of the bird's range.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited some interesting specimens of birds obtained by Colonel Henry P. Northcott at Gambaga and in the Colony of the Gold Coast. The following is a list of the species met with by Colonel Northcott, to which are added references to the pages of Prof. Reichenow's well-known paper on the adjoining country of Togoland ("Zur Vogelfauna von Togo," J. f. O. 1897, pp. 1-57):—

From Gambaga:

1. *Turtur semitorquatus* (p. 6);
2. *Francolinus albigularis*;
3. *Ptilopachys fuscus* (p. 9);
4. *Paeocephalus versteri* (p. 13);
5. *Musophaga violacea* (p. 13);
6. *Schizorhis africanus* (p. 14);
7. *Centropus senegalensis* (p. 14);
8. *Pogonorhynchus dubius* (p. 17);
9. *Campothera punctata* (p. 18);
10. *Mesopicus goertan* (p. 18);
11. *Halcyon chelicuti* (p. 21);
12. *Halcyon forbesi* (p. 21);
13. *Macrodipteryx macrodipterus* (p. 24);
14. *Irrisor senegalensis* (p. 24);
15. *Melanornis edoloides*;
16. *Elminia longicauda* (p. 27);
17. *Terpsiphone cristata* (*T. viridis*, p. 27);
18. *Prionops plumatus* (p. 30);
19. *Dryoscopus gambensis* (p. 31);
20. *Laniarius poliocephalus* (p. 32);
21. *Telephonus senegalus* (p. 32);
22. *Lanius gubernator*;
23. *Corvinella corvina* (p. 34);
24. *Buchanga assimilis*;
25. *Oriolus auratus* (p. 35);
26. *Lamprocolius purpureus* (p. 35);
27. *Pholidauges leucogaster* (p. 36);
28. *Sitagra brachyptera* (p. 36);
29. *Hyphantornis cucullatus* (p. 37);
30. *Pytelia hypogrammica*;
31. *Estrilda phænicotis* (*E. bengala*, p. 39);
32. *Pyromelana flammiceps* (p. 40);
33. *Petronia dentata*;
34. *Serinus icterus* (*S. butyraceus*, p. 41);
35. *Pycnonotus barbatus* (p. 43);
36. *Cinnyris senegalensis* (p. 46);
37. *Parus leucopterus* (p. 47);
38. *Crateropus reinwardti* (p. 48, Taf. ii. fig. 2).

At Walembele, Colonel Northcott had obtained examples of *Palæornis docilis* and *Melittophagus pusillus*.

One of the most remarkable birds obtained was *Lanius gubernator* Hartl., J. f. O. 1882, p. 323, Taf. i. fig. 2, which was previously known only from Equatorial Africa.

Mr. J. L. BONHOTE exhibited a series of adult skins of the Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus septentrionalis*) showing the various stages of the moult, and pointed out that the species had a distinct autumn dress before the moult, which was assumed by a regular abrasion during the latter end of the breeding-season. From the immature specimens Mr. Bonhote assumed that they evidently moulted straight into their adult dress, probably during their second winter.

Mr. BONHOTE also exhibited two specimens in moult of the Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus glacialis*), showing that in this species the new feathers which grow at the autumn moult were at first greyish, and assumed immediately, by change of colour, the characteristic dark background with white spots.

No. LXVI. (November 30th, 1899).

THE sixty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 22nd of November, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-nine Members and three guests were present.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE handed round to the Meeting facsimiles of two letters in Gilbert White's handwriting, one addressed to Thomas Pennant and the other to the Hon. Daines Barrington.

The CHAIRMAN then gave his Annual Address to the Club:—

BROTHER MEMBERS OF THE B. O. C.,—I thank you for the honour you have done me by electing me Chairman for the Eighth Session of this Club, and wish to express my regret at not having been able to attend the first Meeting. I will, however, take the opportunity now afforded me by being

occupant of the Chair for the first time this session to offer you a few remarks on the progress made during the past twelve months. I will speak first of some of the chief ornithological works that have been issued since our last Meeting, then of those that are being planned or are in course of publication, and lastly of some of the expeditions to foreign countries that have attained or are likely to attain good ornithological results.

First, as regards publications, I consider that one of the most important of those that have appeared during the past year is Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's 'Hand-list of Birds,' the plan of which was announced to you some time since (see Bull. vol. viii. p. xxiv), and the first volume of which has lately been issued. When finished, there can be no doubt that the new 'Hand-list' will be of the greatest convenience to working ornithologists. Besides giving an index to the twenty-seven volumes of the great 'Catalogue of Birds,' it will contain references to all the additional species described during the progress of that work, and so form a complete guide-book to all species of birds described up to the time of its issue. It will, in fact, do for Birds what Dr. Trouessart, in his lately-issued 'Catalogus Mammalium,' has attempted to do for the Mammals. All that we could have wished, in fact, is that we should not have to wait two more years for its completion; but this delay is, of course, unavoidable.

Another recent event of much ornithological importance is the issue of the final number of the second edition of Mr. Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.' There can be no greater proof of the increased attention now paid to the study of birds in this country than the great popularity of this excellent 'Manual,' and, I may add, of several other recent works on British ornithology.

A third work, issued this year, which I must not fail to mention, is Mr. Evans's volume upon "Birds" in the series of the 'Cambridge Natural History.' As has been already observed, Mr. Evans's work contains a "concentrated essence of information" on birds which will be most useful as a book of reference to all students of our favourite science.

I should also like to congratulate Messrs. Wilson and Evans on the completion of their 'Aves Hawaienses,' to which we have long been looking forward. The strange avifauna of this isolated group of islands was specially worthy of a monograph.

Of equal importance in geographical ornithology are the two admirable quarto volumes, published by Dr. A. B. Meyer and Mr. L. A. Wigglesworth, on the 'Birds of Celebes,' which have reached us since the commencement of our last Session. As doubtful territory between the Oriental and Australian Regions, Celebes is a locality of special importance in the study of zoo-geography, and well worthy of the elaborate care and attention that these authors have devoted to it.

I may also venture to allude to the recent completion of Mr. Oates's handy little volumes on the 'Game-Birds of India,' by the issue of the second part, and to the good progress made by our Editor with Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes,' the seventh part of which has lately appeared.

Now, turning to the forthcoming works actually in progress, I may mention that our brother member, Dr. A. C. Stark, has nearly passed through the press the first of four volumes on the 'Birds of South Africa,' which will form a part of Mr. W. L. Selater's series on the fauna of that portion of the Ethiopian Region. Both Mr. Layard's original volume and Dr. Sharpe's new edition of it are, I believe, long since out of print, and it is highly desirable that a new and revised account of the birds of that country, which is now, and is likely to remain, of such interest to us, should be published. I believe I may truly say that Dr. Stark is well qualified, from long personal experience with the avifauna in question, to prepare such a work.

Mr. Rothschild's illustrated monograph on the Cassowaries is now also in an advanced stage, and will shortly be published in the Zoological Society's 'Transactions.' It will be of great importance as comprising all the available information respecting this little-known and most interesting

group of birds, to which the author has devoted particular care and attention. I am also pleased to be able to say that the Trustees of the British Museum have authorized Mr. E. W. Oates to proceed with the printing of his Catalogue of their unrivalled collection of Birds'-eggs, and that the first volume of it will shortly be ready.

As regards the expeditions to foreign countries which have led, or are likely to lead, to good ornithological results, I wish to call special attention to Mr. Boyd Alexander's journey up the Zambesi, which has led to most interesting additions to our knowledge of the avifauna of the district traversed by him. The first portion of Mr. Alexander's account of his collection has already appeared in 'The Ibis,' and the second and final portions will be given in the succeeding numbers of our Journal. Of hardly less importance are the recent contributions of Messrs. Rickett, Styan, and La Touche to the avifauna of the Chinese province of Fohkien, which are now in process of publication in the same periodical. They show how much there is still to be done in the little-known hill-regions of China, when the latter can be safely penetrated by European naturalists.

The expedition made by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant and Dr. H. O. Forbes to Socotra and the previously unvisited island of Abd-el-Kuri has resulted in a large increase in our knowledge of the zoology and botany of these localities, where seven new species of birds were discovered. A full account of the collections made, with many coloured plates of the new species, will be shortly issued by the Committee of the Liverpool Museum.

Another imperfectly-known district, which has lately been very successfully traversed, is the interior of the British Protectorate of Aden, into which Messrs. A. Blayney Percival and W. Dodson have lately made an expedition. This has unfortunately cost the life of Mr. Dodson (a most promising collector, and the younger brother of Mr. E. Dodson, the naturalist who accompanied Dr. Donaldson Smith on his expedition to Lake Rudolf), who, I regret to say, died at Aden on the 20th of October last, after

the return of the expedition. The collection of birds, which is in the hands of Mr. Ogilvie Grant, has only just arrived and has not yet been fully examined. There are few new species represented in it, but there are certainly many of considerable interest. Mr. J. S. Budgett has lately returned from a successful visit to our colony on the River Gambia. He also has made a collection of birds, which have not yet been examined, but will certainly prove to be of considerable value. Nor must be omitted mention of the second expedition to Lake Tanganyika, now being conducted by Mr. J. E. S. Moore. Mr. Moore will devote himself principally, of course, to the aquatic products of the Lake, but two of his companions, Mr. Berridge and Mr. Mathews, are ardent ornithologists, and will pay special attention to our branch of natural history. Except from some of the German explorers, we have, as yet, but little information concerning the bird-life of the Tanganyika district, especially of the country northward of it, which Mr. Moore's expedition is planned to pass through on its return journey. Mr. F. J. Jackson, C.B., may have little time for ornithology, owing to his official duties in Uganda; but that he is still able to devote a little leisure to his favourite study is shown by the excellent series of papers now appearing in 'The Ibis.'

This Meeting will presently have before it the descriptions, by Mr. H. Weld-Blundell and Lord Lovat, of several new species of birds discovered during their late adventurous journey through Southern Abyssinia to Khartum. The travellers landed at Berbera in December 1898, traversed Shoa, Southern Abyssinia, and the North Galla country, struck the Blue Nile, which they followed as far as Roseires, whence they proceeded by steamer to Khartum, and thence by train to Cairo, which was reached in May 1899. Their bird-collection contains 520 specimens representing 299 species, of which 11 are new; examples of many of the species described by Rüppell, and known only by the types in the Frankfort Museum, are also among the number. A special point of interest in this collection is the number of birds previously known only from Eastern and Equatorial

Africa which have now been found in Southern Abyssinia. This extremely interesting collection is being worked out by Mr. Ogilvie Grant, and a paper on it will appear in the January 'Ibis.'

Turning now to Asia, I have to record that Major Wingate, starting from Shanghai, followed the Yang-tze-kiang as far as Lake Tung-ting, whence he took a south-westerly course along the Yuen-kiang through Hoo-nan, Kwei-chow, and Yun-nan to Bhamo. A Chinese taxidermist accompanied him through this remarkable journey, and a fine collection of birds has been forwarded to the British Museum, where it is at present under examination. I may add that a melancholy interest attaches to the beautiful series of birds from the island of Hainan which now lies on the table—the last, and one may almost say the dying, contribution to ornithological knowledge made by that sterling English naturalist, the late John Whitehead, whose loss is sincerely mourned by myself and by all his brother ornithologists throughout the world.

On the whole, therefore, I think that there is no reason why we should be at all dissatisfied with the present progress of ornithological work in the Eastern Hemisphere. As regards the New World, we may now expect renewed exertions on the part of our fellow-workers on the other side of the Atlantic. They have, I think I may say, fairly exploited the northern portion of their continent, and have for some time been extending their energies over Mexico and Central America. In the Antilles they have long been at work, and some fine series of birds from the Neotropical Region have been acquired by American naturalists. Let us wish them every sort of success in their efforts, as in these days it is more than ever important that the great Anglo-Saxon community should unite together in every branch of work. But at the same time let us here neglect no opportunity of extending our own knowledge of birds in the New as well as in the Old World. Even as I write I hear of some important collections lately arrived in this country, which show a renewed interest in Neotropical ornithology.

Dr. SHARPE exhibited, on behalf of Mr. R. J. Ussher, a specimen of the larger form of the Snow-Goose, *Chen nivalis* (Forst.), which had been shot near Belmullet in co. Mayo. It belonged to the collection of the well-known Irish naturalist, Mr. H. Blake Knox.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS exhibited a specimen of a Sociable Plover (*Chætusia greyaria*), which had been sent to him for inspection by Mr. E. Williams, of Dublin. The bird in question had been shot near Navan in co. Meath on the 1st of August, 1899, and constituted the second occurrence of the species within the area of the British Islands.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited a new species of Humming-bird, which he described as follows:—

AGYRTRIA TENEBROSA, sp. n.

Upper surface green; hind-neck and upper back with a steel-blue gloss; crown of head violet-blue, greenish on the forehead; longer upper tail-coverts greenish bronze. Rectrices deep steel-blue, almost black, the middle pair with a faint bronzy gloss. Under surface of body glittering green, the feathers of the chin and throat white before the metallic-green tips, those of the abdomen blackish before the green tips. Under tail-coverts dark bronzy-green. Feathers on the tibia and metatarsus as well as tufts of fluffy feathers on the sides of the belly dusky with whitish tips. Bill black, the lower mandible flesh-colour (in skin), with the apical third black. Wing 57-58, tail 38, central rectrices 31, bill 21 mm.

Two specimens found in Bogotá collections: the type in Mr. Rothschild's Museum; another in Mr. Dunstall's collection.

Obs. In general coloration this species is very much like *Saucerottia cyanifrons* (Bourc.), but its elongated and slightly-curved bill, somewhat longer and narrower rectrices, and other characters seem to place it in the genus *Agyrtria* as at present accepted.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition specimens of a new form of Lory, which he described as follows:—

“*EOS VARIEGATA OBIENSIS*, subsp. nov.

“Adult examples of this species from Obi Major differ from adult specimens from Batjan, Halmahera, and Ternate in the absence of the purple occiput and purple collar round the neck, and in having all the greater wing-coverts and scapulars black. Other, probably younger, individuals from Obi Major exhibit a wide collar and a purple patch on the occiput, the latter, however, not being connected with the collar in any of my specimens. These individuals can only be distinguished from typical *E. variegata* by the greater extent of the black colour on the wings. I have eight examples from Obi, collected by Doherty, Lucas, and Guillemard, and a good series from Ternate and Batjan.

With regard to the specific name of this Lory, I think there can be no doubt that *Psittacus variegatus*, Gm., ex Latham (“Variegated Lory”), must be accepted. The tail and scapulars are, as in *Eos bornea* (= *E. rubra*, auct.) sometimes distinctly greenish, at least in specimens kept in captivity; therefore Latham’s description must be regarded as sufficiently exact to refer to this bird.”

Mr. ROTHSCHILD further sent for exhibition an interesting series of *Scolopax saturata* from New Guinea and a specimen of *Neoscolopax rochusseni* from Obi Major. Of the latter species only two examples were hitherto on record, one in the British Museum and the type in Leyden.

Mr. W. B. TEGETMEIER exhibited some very interesting specimens of Pheasants. One was a Kalij Pheasant said to have been shot in Hertfordshire, and belonging to Mr. Cecil Braithwaite. The second was a very dark-coloured hen bird, supposed to be a hybrid between a Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) and a female *Phasianus colchicus*. Mr. Tegetmeier regarded it as a dark variety of an ordinary hen Pheasant.

Mr. BOYD ALEXANDER described a new species of *Chlorodyta* from the Zambesi river as follows:—

CHLORODYTA NEGLECTA, sp. n.

Similis *C. flavidæ* ex terrâ Damarensi, sed uropygio et interscapulio concoloribus, genis, gutture toto, et subalaribus albis, minimè flavis, subcaudalibus albis, nec flavis, et tibiis griseseenti-albis, distinguenda.

Hab. S.E. Africa to Mozambique.

Mr. J. I. S. WHITAKER sent the description of a new species of Chat in the British Museum Collection. The bird had been wrongly identified as *S. mæsta* Licht. He therefore proposed to call it

SAXICOLA CUMMINGI, sp. n.

Adult. Closely allied to *S. xanthopygma* H. & E., but distinguished by having the basal part of the tail-feathers rusty red like the upper tail-coverts, instead of white. From *S. mæsta* to be at once distinguished by having the top of the head and nape brownish grey like the back, the rump and upper tail-coverts rusty and the rufous on the outer tail-feathers extending to within 0·7 inch of the extremity. Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·78, wing 3·7, tail 2·45, tarsus 0·95.

Hab. Fao, Persian Gulf (*W. D. Cumming*).

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited some of the more interesting birds obtained by Major Wingate during his recent expedition from the Yang-tze-kiang through Southern China to Bhamo. One of the most striking of these was a fine adult pair of *Merganser squamatus* (Gould), previously known only from an immature male described in 1864.

Mr. GRANT also exhibited and made remarks on some of the more remarkable new birds obtained by the late Mr. John Whitehead on the Five-finger Mountains in the interior of Hainan. Most of these, such as the splendid Silver Pheasant (*Gennaëus whiteheadi*) and the new Night-Heron (*Nycticorax magnifica*), had already been described in the

October number of 'The Ibis' for 1899 (pp. 584-587), but in that paper the description of a fine new species of *Urocissa* had been omitted. Mr. Grant now proposed to describe it as

UROCISSA WHITEHEADI, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Head, back, fore-neck, and chest dark earthy brown, darkest on the ear-coverts, and shading into grey on the sides and flanks, and into yellowish buff on the middle of the breast, belly, and under tail-coverts; feathers of the crown rounded at the extremity and edged with whitish brown; rump greyish brown; upper tail-coverts black tipped with white; wings black, except the lesser and median wing-coverts, which are white, save at the base; tips of the primary-quills, margins of terminal half of outer webs of secondaries, and the tips of the greater wing-coverts pure white; middle tail-feathers grey, widely tipped with white, and with a sub-terminal black band, the outer feathers similarly marked, but with the white tips increasing in size and shaded with yellow; axillaries and under wing-coverts clear yellowish white. Iris straw-colour; bill red, shading into brownish yellow at the base; feet dark brown. Total length about 18·0 inches, culmen 1·9, wing 8·2, tail 9·4, tarsus 1·95.

Hab. Five-finger Mountains, interior of Hainan.

Mr. GRANT further described a new species of Thick-knee from Southern Arabia, obtained during the recent expedition undertaken by Mr. A. Blayney Percival and the late Mr. W. Dodson:—

ŒDICNEMUS DODSONI, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *Œ. affinis* (Rüpp.), but with the ground-colour of the interscapular region largely mixed with greyish buff, while the deep black markings so conspicuous in the latter species are reduced to shaft-stripes. The greater and median wing-coverts are altogether greyer, the chest and breast more heavily streaked with brownish

black, and the middle pair of tail-feathers as well as the outer webs of the two following pairs are mostly grey with indistinct blackish vermiculations and cross-bars. Iris lemon-yellow; bill lemon-yellow, black at the tip; legs lemon-yellow. Total length about 14.5 inches, culmen from feathers on forehead to tip 1.4, wing 8.6, tail 4.9, tarsus 3.4.

Hab. Lahej, S. Arabia.

Mr. GRANT further exhibited the types of the 11 new species discovered by Mr. H. Weld-Blundell and Lord Lovat during their recent expedition through Southern Abyssinia.

Mr. Weld-Blundell and Lord Lovat had described the new species as follows:—

1. *ORIOLOUS MENELIKI*, sp. n.

Adult. Most nearly allied to *O. monachus*, Gm., from which it may be at once distinguished by having the bill jet-black; the secondary wing-coverts and outer row of median coverts margined with yellow; and the third, fourth, and fifth pairs of tail-feathers with a strongly marked black sub-terminal band. "Iris brown; bill black; legs slate." Total length about 10.0 inches, culmen 1.1, wing 5.6, tail 4.0, tarsus 0.95.

Hab. Burka, Abyssinia: 6th January, 1899.

2. *LUSCINIOLA ABYSSINICA*, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to *L. thoracica* (Blyth) and *L. mandelli* (Brooks), but having the upper parts of a darker and richer brown tinged with red on the lower back and rump; the buff-coloured chest is separated from the white of the throat by a fairly well-marked band of blackish spots; the sides of the body and flanks are dull rusty brown, and the under tail-coverts uniform dull rust-colour. First primary two-thirds the length of the second, which is about equal to the tenth; fourth, fifth, and sixth sub-equal and longest. Iris brown; upper mandible and extremity of lower blackish horn, rest of under mandible whitish; legs light horn-colour. Total length about 6.0 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.1, tail 2.4, tarsus 0.8.

Hab. Lake Chercher, Abyssinia: 12th January, 1899.

3. ORTHOTOMUS MAJOR, sp. n.

Adult male. Allied to *O. erythropterus* (Jardine), but much larger; the bill is light horn-colour instead of black, the forehead and top of the head vinous red, while the chest and rest of the underparts are much paler, being white, washed with very pale cinnamon, especially on the belly, thighs, and under tail-coverts. Iris light hazel; bill and legs light horn-colour. Total length about 6·4 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 2·5, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·92.

Hab. Gitemma, Abyssinia: 14th March, 1899.

4. PSALIDOPROCNE BLANFORDI, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *P. pristoptera* (Rüpp.), but the whole of the upper parts black, glossed with dark green; the underparts darker than the upper surface, and with less green gloss. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 6·0 inches, exposed part of culmen 0·2, wing 4·3, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·45.

Hab. Bilo, Abyssinia: 4th March, 1899.

5. SPORÆGINTHUS MARGARITÆ, sp. n.

Adult male. General colour above, including the top of the head, dull earthy brown; rump and upper tail-coverts dull crimson; lores, sides of the face, and ear-coverts brownish cinnamon; rest of underparts pale cinnamon-buff, inclining to brownish on the sides of the body; tips of the flank-feathers pink; under tail-coverts white; rectrices brownish black, the two outer pairs inclining to whitish on the outer margin and towards the tip. Iris brown; bill red; legs dark brown. Total length about 4·5 inches, culmen 0·4, wing 1·85, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·55.

Hab. Gelongol, Abyssinia: 13th March, 1899.

6. MELANBUCCO LEUCOGENYS, sp. n.

Male (not quite adult). Allied to *M. undatus* (Rüpp.), but easily distinguished by having the hinder parts of the cheeks and sides of the neck pure white; the middle of the throat white, tinged with yellow, some of the feathers being tipped with scarlet, and the outer margins of the quills and rectrices,

as well as the tips of the upper tail-coverts, golden yellow, instead of pale whitish yellow (Naples yellow). Iris pale yellow; bill and legs black. Total length about 5·8 inches, culmen 0·75, wing 3·1, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·7.

Hab. Konduro, Abyssinia: 25th March, 1899.

7. *BARBATULA XANTHOSTICTA*, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Most nearly allied to *B. exoni* (Layard) from South-east Africa, but distinguished by having the white middles to all the feathers of the interscapular region and back tipped with golden yellow. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 4·0 inches, culmen 0·54, wing 2·35, tail 1·25, tarsus 0·55.

Hab. Tchlea, Abyssinia: 8th March, 1899.

8. *CAPRIMULGUS STELLATUS*, sp. n.

A very distinct species, perhaps most nearly allied *C. griseatus*, Gray.

Adult male. General colour of upper parts earthy brown, with very fine vermiculations of black and greyish, most distinct on the head and neck; each feather of the crown and scapulars ornamented near the extremity of the shaft with a star-shaped black spot margined externally with buff, the external buff markings being especially conspicuous on the scapulars; the wing-coverts and innermost secondaries similarly ornamented with buff, edged internally with black; the markings on the rectrices very similar to those of *C. griseatus*, but the white markings on the four outer primaries much narrower and the red bars on the inner quills much wider and more distinct; underparts very similar to those of *C. griseatus*, but the chest and breast darker and more uniform; two outer pairs of tail-feathers black, irregularly barred with rufous and with only the terminal part (·08 inch) of both webs pure white. Iris brown; bill black; legs brown. Total length about 10·0 inches, exposed part of culmen 0·45, wing 6·1, tail 4·3, tarsus 0·72.

Hab. Kassim river, Abyssinia: 18th January, 1899.

9. MYRMECOCICHLA DUBIA, sp. n.

Adult. Allied to *M. melanura* (Temm.), but larger, and with the under tail-coverts brownish-black, edged with sandy buff instead of white, and the under wing-coverts dusky instead of whitish. Iris brown; bill and legs black. Total length about 6·5 inches, culmen (imperfect) about 0·7, wing 3·15, tail 2·5, tarsus 0·9.

Hab. Fontaly, Abyssinia: 17th January, 1899.

10. FRANCOLINUS TETRAONINUS, sp. n.

Adult female. Most nearly allied to *F. schuetti*, Cab., but distinguished by having the dark middles to the feathers of the nape, interscapular region, and wing-coverts but faintly indicated and the chest and breast nearly uniform greyish brown. Iris brown; bill dull orange-red; legs and feet orange-red. Total length 12·5 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 6·5, tail 2·65, tarsus 1·65.

Hab. Mendi, Abyssinia: 18th April, 1899.

11. FRANCOLINUS HARWOODI, sp. n.

Adult male. Most nearly allied to *F. natalensis*, Smith, and *F. icterorhynchus*, Heugl. From the former it may be distinguished by having the feathers of the occiput and back of the neck black, narrowly margined with white, producing a strongly squamated appearance; the chest, upper part of the breast, and sides of the body greyish brown, ornamented with narrow concentric black and white bands; the breast, belly, and rest of the underparts pale ochraceous, with a few sub-concentric black markings. It resembles *F. icterorhynchus* in having the upper parts indistinctly barred with pale greyish brown, the inner webs of the primary-quills mottled with pale rufous, and the ground-colour of the breast and belly pale ochraceous. Iris brown; bill, naked skin round eye, and legs red. Total length about 14·5 inches, culmen 1·15, wing 7·1, tail 3·3, tarsus 2·1.

Hab. Ahaia Fej, Abyssinia: 7th February, 1899.